ed. On the other hand, where a group of species is not unwieldy from its size, or deficient in distinctive marks, the genera are made as comprehensive, as natural affinity will permit. The diversity of structure, which exists in the flowers of *Gentiana*, or the fruit of *Bunias*, would be deemed ample foundation for constructing half a dozen genera among the umbelliferous, leguminous, or gramineous orders. But as the species of the genera above have a strong agreement in one part of their fructification, as well as in general habit, and as no great obscurity or inconvenience results from keeping them together, it has not been thought worth while to multiply nomenclature by arranging them under separate titles.

The separation of Gillenia from Spiræa is one of those cases, upon which the botanist may hesitate long, without finding reasons strong enough to influence his decision. The natural order to which they belong is remarkable for having its genera well defined, so that there is no necessity for the separation, arising from confusion or indistinctness. The fruit of Gillenia is exactly the fruit of Spiræa, and the habit of the herb in one is not very foreign from that of the other. There is nevertheless something in the irregular corolla, taken in conjunction with the campanulate calyx,

which I think would prevent any one, at first sight, from considering the plant a Spiræa; and which may afford sufficient ground for following the example of Mœnch in considering it a distinct genus.

The Gillenia trifoliata grows in woods, in a light soil, from Canada to Florida. In the maritime states I have not met with it north of the Hudson. Its flowering time is in June and July.

The generic character, which distinguishes this plant from Spiræa, is as follows: *Calyx campanulate, five toothed; corolla irregular, petals lanceolate, contracted near the claws; capsules five,* The species *trifoliata* has *ternate, lanceolate, serrate leaves, and stipules which are minute, linea-lanceolate* and *nearly entire.*

Class *Icosandria*, order *Pentagynia.* Natural orders *Senticosæ*, Lin. *Rosaceæ*, Juss.

This plant has commonly a number of stems from the same root, which are a foot or two in height, erect, slender, flexuous, smooth, commonly of a reddish tinge, and considerably branched. The leaves are alternate, trifoliate, with very short petioles, furnished with small lanceolate, slightly toothed stipules at the base. Leafets ovate, lanceolate, acuminate, sharply toothed, the upper ones often single. The flowers are few in num-

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